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The Loadwise rated capacity indicator fitted to a Hetronic wireless remote control.

Full load information remotely

Loadwise, working with Hetronic, has introduced a new system for wireless remote controls for cranes. The system provides a full suite of information to the operator, within a small LED window on the Hetronic shoulder strap controller. This fully satisfies the latest standards that demand that rated capacity indicator data is continuously available to the operator, including a warning of approaching overload, given in terms of percentage of rated capacity and allowable radius with given load.

One size covers fit most

Non marking tyres are increasingly required when working indoors, and in a growing number of establishments even white or grey non marking tyres are not accepted, as they still tend to leave a rubber deposit on the floor. The solution is to fit tyre covers or "socks", however until now, most of the products on the market had a number of failings. 1. They wear through very quickly and sometimes don't last a single hire. 2. They are custom made, so you need to have the exact dimensions for each tyre size. Invariably the wrong one will be in stock, when the call from site comes, as the machine is being delivered. Yet delivery on a custom made cover can be several days at best.

A British company believes that it has found the solution with a new design, for which it has applied for a patent. Coverall Ltd makes its tyre covers from grade "A" 610 gsm PVC, which it says will normally last for several hires and contains no dyes that might transfer to critical floor surfaces. Its principal feature though is the fact that thanks to an ingenious industrial strength Velcro fastening system and heavily elasticated sides, One size will fit a wide range of different tyres. For example it says that the mid sized cover, in its range of three, will fit almost any aerial lift tyre. This of course makes it practical for a rental company to keep a few in stock. Coverall can also deliver overnight or even same day. The standard product range covers tyres of all widths from diameters of 580mm/23" to 1,300mm/52".



The coverall tyre cover adjusts to fit a wide range of tyre sizes.

Safer Roof Ladder



David Storey has won the Health & Safety trophy with his roof ladder idea, the first Access product to win this award

wins idea of the year

For the first time, an access product has appeared and won the national Idea of the Year contest. "Idea of the Year" is run by ideasUK, the national association of suggestion scheme managers, and is supported by a number of captains of industry. The ideas which reach the shortlist are usually concerned with improved or safer ways of doing things, and almost invariably result in major cost savings for employers. In one recent year, it was estimated that industry saved £90million by putting employees' ideas into effect.

The access idea comes from David Storey, a health and safety adviser with British Gas. He has been working to improve conditions for gas staff working on conventional house roofs, and has invented a new way of securing access ladders.

"Our current situation uses both an access ladder and a roof ladder," says David Storey. "Engineers climb the access ladder, step on to the roof ladder, and go up to the chimney stack. They drop a running line over the stack, attach it to the front of their safety harness, and they're anchored.

"The difficulty is that not all houses have chimney stacks, and if you come across a combination stack, as is often the case in London, it's impossible to put a running line over it. So the system only works fifty per cent of the time."

In the new system, the anchor point is not on the chimney stack, but on the roof ladder.

"The procedure is this. You erect the access ladder, and then the roof ladder with the running line already attached to the anchor point. Then you climb the access ladder and anchor the two ladders together with a bracket.

"You can then step from the access ladder on to the roof ladder and attach the running line on to the front of the harness. You are now safe to continue your work.

"So the system works regardless of the chimney stack."

The advantages of the new system, according to British Gas, are many. The bracket used to anchor the two ladders together has a positive lock. The overlap between the ladders is nine inches, which makes the whole system semi-rigid, eliminating ladder-bounce. This makes the process of stepping from the access ladder to the roof ladder much safer.

Both brackets are adjustable and the anchor points are secured by a pin through any rung of the ladders, on either side.

The system is also quicker to erect, taking only about two and a half minutes. Tests of the new system, with weights up to 270kg., showed that the ladder would bend before the ladder bracket failed.



The connecting bracket and sliding harness anchor point are the key components

enquiries ↓

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